

## WIDGEE — IN THE DAYS OF WIDGEE STATION

by J. D. DALE

*Presented at a Meeting of the Society on 27 July 1978.*

This is an account of the development of a tiny rural settlement in Queensland from the late 1840s when the pastoral expansion of this State — then still part of New South Wales — was just beginning, to the time just before World War I.

During this period Queensland developed from an unknown frontier, much of which defied the very thought of settlement and civilisation, to become widely settled, with its bountiful natural resources available for intensive use; became separated from New South Wales, to assume independent Statehood; and finally with the other five States federated to form our nation of Australia.

Also during this period, the small settlement of Widgee Widgee developed from one of the last outposts of civilisation in the virtually unknown bush to become a pleasant rural settlement and so it remains today. Widgee, as the place is now called, is part of the Kilkivan Shire, and not the Widgee Shire which surrounds the town of Gympie. The township lies nestled in among spurs of the Great Divide about 20 kilometres west of Gympie. However, to begin this story, we must go back to the days before Gympie was even thought of, and when the settlements around Moreton Bay were very few.

### FIRST LEASES

In 1842 when free settlers were allowed within the limits of the former convict settlement of Moreton Bay, they spread out in all directions from Brisbane Town. The South Burnett country was soon occupied and settlements such as Burrandowan, Taabinga, Tarong, Baramba and Nanango were established. As more squatters came, they followed the spread of settlement north-eastward, taking up all the good land in that direction, and so the promising Widgee Widgee country was discovered.

---

Mr. John Dale, a school teacher at Cooroy (Q.), has long family associations with the Widgee area, of which he has made a special study.

What Murphy and Easton in their book *Wilderness to Wealth* term "Widgee") and what has been termed elsewhere the Widgee Widgee Pastoral Run, was actually a cluster of adjoining runs held by the same lessee. The Widgee Widgee Pastoral Run was taken up by William Butler Tooth, a relative of the founders of the well-known Kent Brewery in Sydney; and who was later a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, representing until 1859, the "United Pastoral Districts of Wide Bay, Burnett, Maranoa, Leichhardt, and Port Curtis". W. B. Tooth and his brother Atticus (grandfather of Sir Douglas Tooth, former Queensland Minister for Health), overlanded to Widgee Widgee to take up the land.<sup>3</sup>



W. B. TOOTH

Photo: Kent Brewery Museum, Sydney

The first Widgee land was tendered for by W. B. Tooth and Co. in October 1849, although it is probable that the land was settled before the tenders were made.

The runs first taken up were: Orange Tree, comprising 16,000 acres with grazing capacity for 6,000 sheep;<sup>4</sup> Basin of Weeji Widgee, comprising 15,000 acres with grazing capacity for 600 cattle.<sup>5</sup>

Both tenders were accepted in March 1851 for a lease term of 14 years, Orange Tree for an annual rent of £15/6/-;<sup>6</sup> and Basin of

Weeji Widjie at a rent of £18/2/-.<sup>7</sup> Other adjoining runs tendered for by W. B. Tooth and Co. in 1851 included — Bald Hills, comprising 16,000 acres with grazing capacity for 500 cattle;<sup>8</sup> Glastonbury, comprising 16,000 acres with grazing capacity for 600 cattle;<sup>9</sup> Brooyar of the same acreage and estimated grazing capacities as Glastonbury;<sup>10</sup> and Reserve, comprising 16,000 acres with grazing capacity for 640 cattle.<sup>11</sup>

All the tenders were accepted for rents ranging from £10 per annum for Glastonbury to £23/12/- per annum for Brooyar.<sup>12</sup>

In 1852 another adjoining run, Woonga, comprising 16,000 acres with grazing capacity for 4,000 sheep, was transferred from its lessee to W. B. and R. Tooth.<sup>13</sup> The latter was most likely Robert Tooth, a cousin to W. B. Tooth. In the same year the runs of Orange Tree, Basin of Widgee Widgee, Bald Hills and Glastonbury were likewise transferred.<sup>14</sup> W. B. Tooth used his Widgee property mainly for cattle grazing<sup>15</sup> unlike many of his contemporaries, who were interested mainly in sheep to produce wool. He also experimented in agriculture and grew wheat quite successfully, sending samples of the crop to Brisbane in 1853.<sup>16</sup>

However in time, like many of his contemporaries, W. B. Tooth decided to expand his interests and no longer wished to retain his Widgee properties. So in 1856 the Widgee leases were transferred to W. B. Tooth's cousin Robert Tooth,<sup>17</sup> who then worked the land in partnership with his own brother, Frederick.

Both Robert and Frederick were partners with their brother John in the Kent Brewery in Sydney. In the meantime W. B. Tooth had bought Clifton in August 1853.<sup>18</sup> In the later 1850s he invested in further land in the Maranoa, Albert, Leichhardt, Lower Darling, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee districts, to name but a few.<sup>19</sup> Back at Widgee Widgee, in 1857, another nearby run, that of Woolooga was transferred to Robert Tooth.<sup>20</sup> It was he who started large-scale wool growing at Widgee Widgee.

### THE ABORIGINES

Life at Widgee Widgee in its first few decades of white settlement was not without its hazards. L. E. Skinner, in his recent book *Police of the Pastoral Frontier*<sup>21</sup> has made numerous references to the depredation made by the aborigines around Widgee Widgee in the 1850s. William Butler Tooth gave evidence before the 1858 Select Committee on the murders by aborigines on the Dawson River, and stated that on the stations he formed around Widgee Widgee he had never had a man killed by aborigines, but had lost many cattle killed by them. He added that as soon as Commandant Frederick Walker came with a com-

pany of the Native Mounted Police, the squatters nearby agreed to let the aborigines on their stations, which they had not dared to do before.<sup>22</sup>

Skinner tells how in October 1850 the overseer at Widgee Widgee, William Taylor and one of his men, Daniel Driscoll had gone to a nearby creek in response to a false message given by an aborigine. There they were surrounded by hostile natives. Taylor opened fire, and they escaped to a hut, at which many spears were hurled. Further shots dispersed the mob, who killed many cattle on this occasion.<sup>23</sup>

Murphy and Easton in *Wilderness to Wealth* claim that the long standing enmity between whites and blacks in the Widgee district seemed to be caused by a motiveless massacre of a Widgee shepherd on the Brooyar part of the run.<sup>24</sup> John Murray, the original occupant of Woolooga, much closer to Brooyar than Widgee, stated on 21 December 1850 that he and his men lived daily in peril of their lives from the aborigines of the Euro Euro, Widgee Widgee, Boppool and Fraser Island tribes. In that year he had two shepherds killed and 600 sheep driven away, another man speared and his horse killed under him, while a further 1000 sheep had been taken off and destroyed.<sup>25</sup>

On 27 April 1852 William Taylor, overseer at Widgee, wrote to Lieutenant Marshall of the Native Mounted Police requesting their assistance, as he was obliged to be absent from the station, taking cattle to Wide Bay, from time to time. The aborigines took advantage of his absence to attack and scatter the cattle remaining on the station.<sup>26</sup>

The following July, W. B. Tooth wrote that his Widgee Widgee station was the only cattle holding for miles around, carrying 4000 to 5000 head of cattle. He added that the Native Mounted Police patrols were completely ineffective in lessening the incidence of natives spearing his cattle.<sup>27</sup>

On 15 October the same year William Taylor once again wrote to Lieutenant Marshall. This time he was apparently the author of the letter:

Widgee Widgee Ocktober the 15 1852.

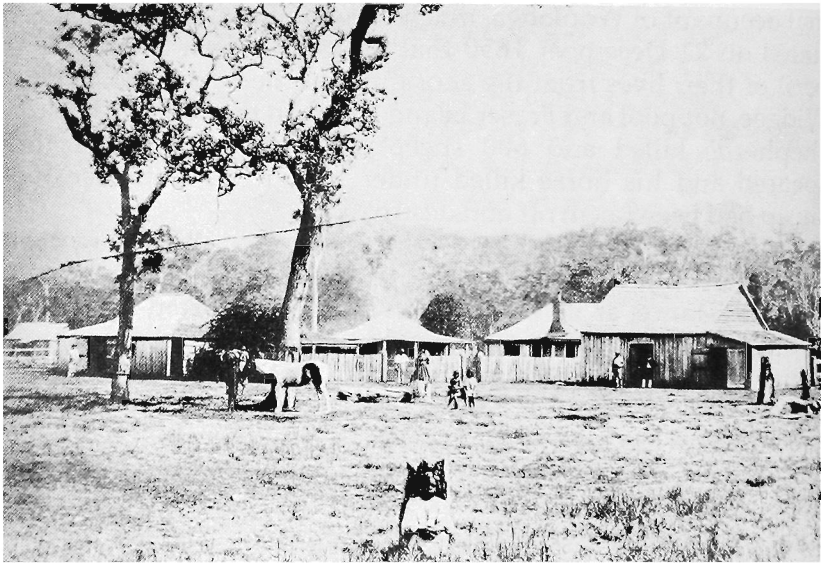
Sir

I ham sorry to troble you but the Blacks ar very troblesum and ar Killing the cattle a gain I found a beast with a spear in it and the remains of a nother witch they had kilid. I hope you wil com over as soon as you can make it convenint.

Your Obebent sirvent  
William Taylor<sup>28</sup>

Trouble was still to be encountered in February 1854 when Commissioner of Crown Lands Halloran wrote that in Widgee Widgee district the blacks were committing serious depredations, spearing cattle and stealing sheep. He added, however, that there was a section of the Native Mounted Police at Yabber to keep them in order.<sup>29</sup>

A report dated February 1856 refers to aborigines frightening off and spearing cattle on the Glastonbury Run,<sup>30</sup> while a month later William Powell of Walooga Station wrote about threats from aborigines who intended to drive off sheep and murder all the whites on the station. The Native Mounted Police sought unsuccessfully for these offenders, who Powell noted were frequently on Widgee Station.<sup>31</sup>



**Widgee Widgee Station, Robert Cran owner, 1869.**  
Richard Daintree photo. Maryborough Historical Society

The worst recorded atrocity occurred just before sunset on 10 February 1861 at Manumbar, a neighbouring station. A party of Native Mounted Police, supposedly in pursuit of aborigines who had been spearing cattle on Widgee, came across a camp of Manumbah Station aborigines and fired upon them, killing quite a number of innocent souls.<sup>32</sup>

The struggle with the aborigines continued well into the 1860s. One of the Widgee managers in the middle to later 1860s, Mr. John Charles Knaggs<sup>33</sup> had several attempts made on his life. Once, on the Brooyar part of the station, a fusillade of spears

missed him and imbedded themselves in the walls of a hut.<sup>34</sup> In the kitchen of the main Widgee homestead there was a series of holes in the wooden slabs through which guns could be aimed at menacing aborigines.

The result of another reprisal raid against the aborigines was uncovered by two Widgee stockmen, Andrew Ogilvie and Jimmy Caulfield. While mustering Widgee stock where the township of Woollooga now stands, they paused at a waterhole to replenish their quart pots. They were surprised to see the water was coated with a greasy scum. On investigating more closely, they stood back in horror at the sight of the partly decomposed bodies of five aborigines, each one of which bore bullet holes.<sup>35</sup>

Such were some of the most unfortunate and tragic occurrences in the early days of Widgee. The tragedy, as it was in too many other areas of Australia, was in the misunderstanding between white settlers and the lords of the old land, the aborigines. In general, neither side was prepared to understand the other. To the white settlers, the aborigines who perpetuated depredations had to be punished. This was something achieved through the efforts of the Native Mounted Police which, forsaking its original aim to keep the peace, became pledged to protect the squatters' interests.

Regular patrols of the Native Mounted Police were not possible, and once a patrol passed through a district it took but a short time for hostilities to recommence. When the Native Mounted Police proved ineffective, acts of retribution by the squatters seemed to be the only course of action. Understandably, very little was recorded about the squatters' acts of punishment, but the indication from the evidence presented here is that such murderous reprisals were not simply infrequent, isolated cases.

### END OF FIRST LEASES

In August 1863 James Charles White, manager of many of the Tooth holdings (including Widgee Widgee at one time) applied for a licence to occupy the Carrington run adjoining the Orange Tree, Ammamoor and Widgee Widgee runs. The rent for Carrington was set at £15 per annum. J. C. White mortgaged his run to Robert Tooth of Sydney, the consideration being £30,000, and the schedule being 10,000 head of cattle and 4000 head of horses.<sup>36</sup> J. C. White proceeded to convert his holding from a sheep station to a cattle station. However, his cattle developed the dreaded pleuro-pneumonia and were wiped out. White left

Carrington in September 1863<sup>37</sup> and it was purchased by Robert Tooth in 1864.<sup>38</sup> About this time, Widgee Widgee changed over to cattle raising.

In February 1864 Robert Cran of Ipswich mortgaged Widgee Widgee, with 10,000 head of cattle and 400 horses, to Robert Tooth, the consideration being £12,500.<sup>39</sup> On 28 May 1868 Robert Tooth of Sydney assigned the Widgee Widgee runs to the Bank of New South Wales in consideration whatever credit advances might be required by the firm of R. and H. Tooth, of which Robert Tooth was a member. The schedule included Widgee Widgee and 14,000 head of cattle as well as 400 head of horses, in the charge of Robert Cran.<sup>40</sup>

With an application to bring Widgee Station under the provisions of the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868, in August 1869 the runs Wonga, Orange Tree, Basin of Widgee Widgee, Brooyar, Glastonbury, Bald Hills, Reserve, Walooga and Carrington were consolidated and 120,300 acres resumed for the purpose of selection. The remaining 34,708 acres came under a new lease. This lease was transferred on 27 March 1872 to John Broadbent and Daniel Williams.<sup>41</sup>

### HORSE TRAINER THOMAS MULLALY

Thomas Mullaly, under a five-year contract to J. C. White at £6 a week, house and food provided, took charge of the horse section at Widgee early in May 1864.<sup>42</sup> His employment was an indication that efforts were being made to improve the quality of horseflesh on the station. This is indicated in the following advertisement from the *Maryborough Chronicle* on 22 September 1864:

"To serve the season at Widgee Widgee  
the imported coaching stallion Fireaway;  
also the imported Suffolk Punch draught  
horse Challenger"<sup>43</sup>

His skill as a horseman was illustrated on one occasion when J. C. White visited Widgee and met the manager of Kilkivan Station. A buckjumping competition was arranged between Tom Mullaly and a Kilkivan rider. Despite the fury of the buckjumpers, neither rider was thrown. However, finally, Tom Mullaly was awarded the prize money of £100.<sup>44</sup>

### TURN-OVER TO FREEHOLD

From 1870 onwards much of the resumed area of Widgee Station was taken up as selections by small landholders. The new owners of Widgee Widgee, John Broadbent and Daniel Williams,

knew that they would have to supplement their lease with freehold land if the station was to survive. By 1876 the remainder of the Widgee leases were resumed<sup>45</sup> but after pleas from Broadbent and Co., a new lease of 55 square miles was granted over a period of five years and at an annual rate of £2 per square mile.<sup>46</sup>

In 1883 Broadbent and Co. applied for the lease of the nearby Mia Mia run of 16 square miles, which was granted for a period of ten years.<sup>47</sup> Further resumptions gradually reduced the size of the area of land leased by the station. Finally, on 31 December 1897, the last lease expired. The manager at the time had previously applied for an occupational licence for the area which had formerly been leased and had not been taken up by free settlers.<sup>48</sup>

In the early 1870s Broadbent and Co. began to select land on a freehold tenure. The first areas selected were taken up on the station's pre-emptive right to the blocks on which the Widgee homestead and the Brooyar outstation homestead were situated. The applications to select these lands were made in 1872.<sup>49</sup>

However, the Land Act set a definite limit on the number of blocks which a single person or company could select. Broadbent and Williams soon reached this limit. The solution to the problem of selecting further land was to find employees or other persons willing to select portions of land under their own names, and then after it had been inspected or freeholded, to transfer or sell the land to the station. The settlers involved in such deals became known as dummy selectors, who understandably, had the payments on their land met by the station.

The station also frequently ran its own cattle on the land. In return, the so-called settlers were usually employed by the station and had a residence and other improvements on the land provided by the station. Dummying became rather widespread in Widgee, there being at least 15 dummy selectors in the district in the 1870s and 1880s, as well as quite a large number of bailiffs who sometimes, to fulfill the residential qualifications for selection, occupied the lands taken up in the name of the original selector. Some dummy selectors took up a number of blocks over a period of time. In some cases the land became known by the names of those who had taken it up. Thus, some of the Widgee Station paddocks were named Homer's, Peter's, Spicer's, Sloan's, Macpherson's and Adams'.



The freehold extent of the station in November 1892, as shown on a Bill of Mortgage involving £70,000, amounted to 45,923 acres. The mortgage, incidentally, was paid off by October 1901.<sup>50</sup> So by the time the last leases ended, Widgee Station was a sound and valuable freehold property. John Broadbent greatly increased the improved value of much of his Widgee land by ring-barking the trees, being the pioneer in Queensland of this method of clearing. In this he did, however, create other problems which were not evident in his time.<sup>51</sup>

Gradually the genuine free settlers took up more and more of the former Widgee Station land. Early settlers seemed to choose outlying areas first, such as Glastonbury, Goothan and Brooyar. As the years passed and it became apparent which land actually belonged to the station, selections were taken up in close proximity to the homestead itself, despite the station's bitter resentment of this.

The early selectors of the Widgee district included: James Meakin in 1879; George Slater Webb, 1882; John Slanahan, James McCarthy, Philip Browne, and William O'Brien in 1885; William Cotter and William Wooster, 1887; John O'Donnell, 1889; Thomas O'Brien, 1897; and Patrick O'Brien in 1906. In July 1892 a Provisional School was opened in one of the Widgee Homestead buildings, later moving into a proper schoolhouse made chiefly of slabs. Around the turn of the century, as the influence of the station began to lessen, a real community spirit began to develop. This is evident in a report in the *Gympie Times* telling of a gala day at Widgee in June 1901 to celebrate the annual picnic of the local school. The day was given over to the children, and every child won a prize. A dance was commenced in the school room in the evening, and kept up until daylight next morning. Then, after breakfast it was "boot and saddle", and "all hands dispersed to their homes, having had an enjoyable time and, like the children, regretting that such gatherings did not occur oftener".<sup>52</sup>

### THE CAULFIELD FAMILY

No other family is more closely associated with Widgee than the Caulfield family, and no other man was more a part of the station than Jimmy Caulfield senior. James John Good Caulfield came to Widgee from the Tooths' Maranoa holdings in 1864 when he was 16. He remained an employee of the station until he retired to live on a small block of land at nearby Woolooga in 1906. For many years he was head stockman, and at times manager.



Branding on Widgee Station about 1904. Mr. Caulfield brands the calf.  
(Mr. L. Cecil, Wonga)

Jimmy Caulfield is remembered as a most remarkable horseman. The stories of his legendary rides are told and re-told in the district. Before the discovery of gold in Gympie in September 1867, he was a key figure in the station's communication with the outside world. At various times he rode to Dalby, Toowoomba or Maryborough to despatch telegrams. Once, when he rode to Toowoomba his mission was completed so quickly that Jackson, manager of Widgee thought he must have been forced to abandon the trip.

Jackson was also the cause of Caulfield's most famous ride. After he had been severely gored by an enraged bull in the station's drafting yards, an old German housekeeper rushed to his aid and assisted by young Jimmy Caulfield, she cleaned the wound and stitched it with a sterilized packing needle and thread. Throughout the operation the patient hovered on the brink of consciousness.

With the emergency operation over, Caulfield set out to Maryborough to summon a doctor. He left Widgee at 4 p.m. and arrived in Maryborough at two o'clock the next morning. Late the next afternoon he returned with the doctor, who had followed Caulfield in a buggy. On examining the patient, the doctor found him making good progress. His eventual recovery was attributed to the skill of the simple German housekeeper and Jim Caulfield's superb equestrian feat.<sup>53</sup>

In September 1867, in the course of his work on the station, Caulfield accidentally came upon a prospector engaged in his work near the Mary River. After a brief conversation the pair parted. The prospector, James Nash, reported a few weeks later his discovery of the Gympie goldfield. Questioned later why he did not capitalise on his seemingly good fortune, Caulfield replied: "I was paid to muster Widgee stock and not to chase gold". Such was the loyalty of this man.<sup>54</sup>

Jimmy Caulfield dummied nine blocks for the station, involving over 5000 acres.<sup>55</sup> The first land was selected in his name in October 1875;<sup>56</sup> two years after he was married to a certain Ellen Standen. In February 1882 the Caulfields moved to live on one of these blocks,<sup>58</sup> known as "Woogaloom". After being flooded out at Woogaloom in February 1890, they once again came to reside near the main homestead, where they occupied two buildings, so much room did the large family require. As they grew up, the boys were conscripted to work for the station. One of the boys, Martin, was expelled from the Widgee Provisional School in 1900 after knocking the teacher off his feet. He then went to work on the station, and after the best part of a year had received no pay. At Christmas time, the station manager, Mr. J. P. Voss, handed Martin a well-earned cheque for £2/10/-. Mr. Caulfield received a double ration on which he was supposed to feed his family. Understandably, the children had to learn to live a good deal off the land. They were even known to raid the turkey settings of the station owner, Mr. Broadbent, and when caught sometimes felt the sternness of his hand.<sup>60</sup>

However, the lives of the Caulfields were not without tragedy. Of the eventual 14 members of the family, the first child to die was Clara in November 1903. George died next, in April 1905.<sup>61</sup> His death came as a result of being kicked on the head by a horse in the preceding January. The tragedy was made a threesome when Percy Caulfield died at Widgee in November the same year. George Caulfield's accident followed not quite four months after another accident in which a stockman, Lloyd Williams, died instantly when his horse swung him into a tree.<sup>62</sup> Nineteen years earlier, in November 1885, Martin Carroll, a cousin of Jimmy Caulfield, had been killed in a similar accident to that of George Caulfield.<sup>63</sup> Such accidents were always dreaded in those days, and were only too frequent in the district.

### ARNOLD WIENHOLT AT WIDGEE

Daniel Williams, of the partnership Broadbent and Williams, died in 1885 at the height of the struggle between the station and

the independent selectors. The ownership of the station was registered on 12 March 1890 as John Broadbent, William Forrest and Peter Macpherson (the latter had been Daniel Williams' solicitor in Brisbane) as joint tenants;<sup>64</sup> and trustees of the will of Daniel Williams.<sup>65</sup> The Widgee freehold was then transferred to William Forrest and Peter Macpherson in July 1895;<sup>66</sup> and John Broadbent left Widgee. The station was managed by Mr. J. P. Voss.

In September 1902 Peter Macpherson and Arnold Wienholt became trustees of Widgee Widgee;<sup>67</sup> and so Arnold Wienholt (a grandson of Daniel Williams) who later became a hero in World War I and World War II, a State and Federal Parliamentarian, lion hunter, author and freedom fighter, became manager of Widgee Widgee. In his short stay of about four years at Widgee, Wienholt contributed greatly to the development both of the station and of the district in general.

Wienholt conducted investigations into the value of innoculation of cattle against Redwater or Texas fever, and supervised the construction of most of the station's eight dips. Before the 1902-1903 drought, large numbers of bullocks had been bought, fattened and turned off the run annually to be sold in the Brisbane Markets, or to one of the meat preserving companies, or to be shipped frozen to Europe on the owner's account. Since the drought, up to 1905, no store bullocks had been bought. The station-bred cattle supplied all the "fats" turned off in that time. The station stock was then made up of between 6000 and 7000 shorthorn cattle, about 2000 of which were cows. Widgee continued to be worked in conjunction with Mondure Station as a fattening property.<sup>68</sup>

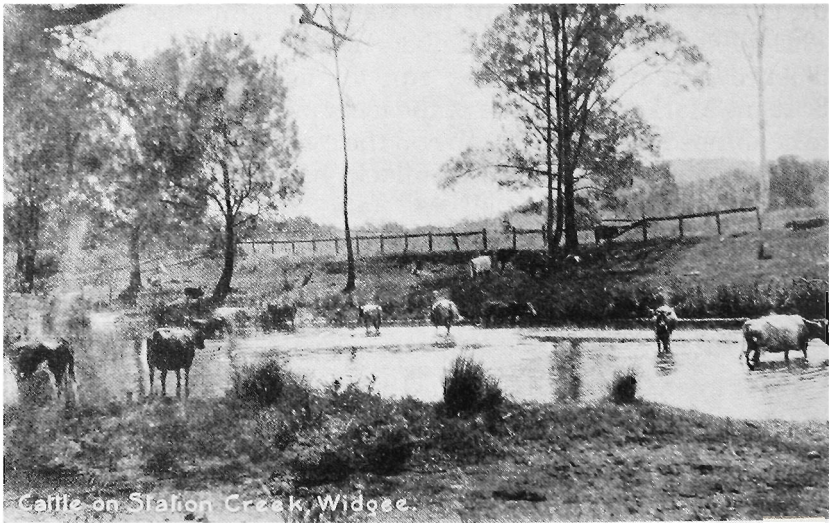
Great interest was aroused in 1908 when Wienholt brought to Widgee three magnificent blood stallions, Thor, Borghese and Kilwinning, which he had imported from England. These fine animals were used to improve the already famous Widgee horse stock.<sup>69</sup>

Being intensely interested in physical fitness, Wienholt patronised two main sports at Widgee. He introduced boxing to his stockmen and had a promising protege by the name of Jack Spicer, who fought a number of successful amateur fights in Kingaroy, Kilkivan and Gympie. At times, when there was no urgent work, Wienholt would announce half a day and arrange a boxing tournament among his stockmen.<sup>70</sup> He was also responsible for establishing the Widgee Cricket Club, donating to the

club all of the necessary materials for the game. The team soon became quite formidable.<sup>71</sup> During 1901-1902 season, for instance the Widgee Cricket Club and the Endeavour Cricket Club from Kilkivan had scored two wins each. They agreed to play a deciding match at Widgee on 8 June. With the end of the first innings, the scores were level at 35 runs. Following lunch, Widgee compiled a total of 73 runs, while Endeavours were dismissed for a mere 15 runs.<sup>72</sup>

### END OF AN ERA

After his departure from Widgee, Arnold Wienholt left the station in charge of a succession of three managers, Charles Gall, Richard Barton Thornton<sup>73</sup> and Harry Webb. Following Caulfield's retirement as head stockman, that position was taken over by William Edward Cotter. Wienholt was then only an occasional visitor,<sup>74</sup> as he assumed control of the Wienholt Estates Co., and had taken up his Parliamentary duties in the State House in 1909.<sup>75</sup>



Scene on Widgee Estate, 1911.  
From Dept. of Lands booklet

In 1904 Widgee Station consisted of about 50,000 acres of freehold divided into 22 paddocks for cattle, as well as several smaller paddocks for horses.<sup>76</sup> When William Cotter junior took up work at 22/6 a week on Widgee Station in 1910, the end of the station was not far off. Speculation that Widgee would be sold to the Government had been growing ever since 1902. From 1910,

the cattle reared or fattened ready for sale were mostly driven across the Mary River to the railhead at Curra, north of Gympie, for trucking to Brisbane, as the days of droving cattle overland to Brisbane were over. In this way many of the Widgee cattle (at this stage mainly Hereford and Shorthorn cross) bearing the still famous Widgee brand U7U, were disposed of, in readiness for the sale of the northern half of the station. All breeding had long since ceased.<sup>77</sup>

In due course, on 27 April 1911,<sup>78</sup> the northern half of Widgee Station, termed "The Widgee Estate", including the paddocks, Top and Bottom Macpherson's, Sloan's, Homer's, Peter's, Spicer's, Brooyar, Adams', Goothan, Bongmuller and the Pre-Emptive, was thrown open to selection. In 1912 Bill Cotter junior, and another Widgee stockman Cyril Lewis drove one of the last herds of horses from Widgee to deliver them at Jondaryan, where Arnold Wienholt had further property.

When young Bill Cotter returned to Widgee (he was reared on his father's selection which adjoined the Widgee homestead block) the station had ceased operations completely.<sup>79</sup> The southern portion of the station, consisting of 20,266<sup>80</sup> acres including the paddocks, Top and Bottom Wonga, New Paddock, Hut Paddock, Weiner's Paddock, Homestead Paddock, Purebred, Little Widgee, Widgee Creek Paddock, Black Prince and Gumtree<sup>81</sup> was ready to be thrown open to selection on Thursday 22 August 1912 at 11 o'clock.<sup>82</sup> This portion of Widgee had been sold to the Government for £38,297/3/-.<sup>83</sup>

So ended an era which had begun with a bitter fight for supremacy over the native population and ended with the opportunity for many more free settlers to make Widgee their home. Gone forever were the remarkable days of the Widgee Widgee which had always been famous for its magnificent horseflesh: where in the 1860s 8000 head of mixed cattle were often seen yarded in the home paddock;<sup>84</sup> where as many as 5000 "fats" were turned off in one year; where 1100 prime beasts had been pastured in one 5000-acre paddock and a mob of 3000 store cattle turned off from another 5000-acre paddock in one year.<sup>85</sup> A new era of excitement, progress, prosperity and sometimes disillusionment was about to begin.

## REFERENCES

1. J. E. Murphy and E. W. Easton, *Wilderness to Wealth*; Brisbane: W. R. Smith and Paterson Pty. Ltd., 1950; p.259.
2. R. Donald, *Widgee District Centenary, 1869-1969*, Gympie: Reid Printery, 1969; p.1.
3. "Historian", "The Tooths of old Clifton Station; When W. B. Tooth held the Gympie Gold Lands", *The Steering Wheel and Society and Home*, November 1, 1937; Series: Pioneering Queensland Families, Number 55; J.O.L.; p.42.
4. *Tabular Register of Lands Open for the Selection of Pastoral Runs and of Tenders Received*; CLO/10; p.5, Q.S.A.
5. *Ibid*; p.6.
6. *Ibid*; p.5.
7. *Ibid*; p.6.
8. *Ibid*; p.13.
9. *Ibid*; p.12.
10. *Ibid*; p.11.
11. *Ibid*; p.18.
12. *Ibid*; p.12,11.
13. *Ibid*; p.4.
14. *Ibid*; pp.5,6,13,12.
15. *Votes and Proceedings*, New South Wales 880:7; Legislative Assembly, Select Committee, 1858. J.O.L.
16. "Historian"; *op cit*, p.42.
17. *Tabular Register of Lands*, *op cit*, pp.4,15,11,12,13,6,5.
18. "Historian", *op cit*, p.42.
19. *Accepted Tenders for Runs*, 1 Jan 1856—31 Dec 1859, pp.13,14,15,16,17,18; New South Wales State Archives.
20. *Tabular Register of Lands*, *op cit*, p.20.
21. L. E. Skinner, *Police of the Pastoral Frontier Native Police 1849-59*, University of Queensland Press.
22. *Votes and Proceedings*, *op cit*, p.880: 6,7,9.
23. L. E. Skinner, *op cit*, p.63.
24. Murphy and Easton, *op cit*, p.260.
25. Deposition of John Murray before R. P. Marshall J.P. 21 Dec 1850 at Walooga, reel A2.23 frames 852-854, J.O.L.
26. Taylor/Marshall, 27 April 1852, NMP/5, Q.S.A.
27. Tooth/Commandant Native Police, Wide Bay, 25 July 1852, NMP/5, Q.S.A.
28. Taylor/Marshall, 15 October 1852, NMP/8, Q.S.A.
29. Halloran/The Chief Commissioner Crown Lands, Sydney, NMP/5, Q.S.A.
30. Hutchinson/O'Halloran, 16 February 1856, reel A2.36, frames 792-794, J.O.L.
31. Powell/Halloran, 18 November 1856, reel A2.36, frames 792-794, J.O.L.
32. F. and A. Mortimer/The Honourable Colonial Secretary, 3 April 1861, 61/908; COL/A14, Q.S.A.
33. *Queensland Electoral Roll, 1866-1867*, Number 76, Wide Bay Electorate, Q.S.A.
34. Murphy and Easton, *op cit*, p.260.
35. *Ibid*, p.261.
36. *Registers of Mortgages*, No. 270, Book 2; 19 February 1863, J. C. White to Robert Tooth, Q.S.A.
37. Mrs. S. Woodrow (great grand-daughter of J. C. White) to J. Dale, 30 September 1975.
38. *Tabular Register of Lands*, *op cit*, p.60.

39. *Register of Mortgages*, No. 203, Book 3; 2 February 1864. Robert Cran to Robert Tooth, Q.S.A.
40. *Register of Mortgages*, No. 172, Book 7, Robert Tooth Assignment upon trust for sale to the Bank of New South Wales; Q.S.A.
41. M. J. Ryman, Archives Assistant Q.S.A., 20 August 1969, Widgee Station 1949-1870.
42. J. Mullaly, February 1967; Document in the possession of Mr. Cyril Mullaly, Gympie (son of J. Mullaly).
43. R. Donald, *op cit*, p.2.
44. J. Mullaly, *op cit*.
45. Broadbent/Under Secretary Public Lands, 23 December 1876, LAN/AF 1143; Q.S.A.
46. Pastoral Lease in Settled Districts, issued to John Broadbent and Daniel Williams, witnessed 16 March 1880, LAN/AF 1143; Q.S.A.
47. Lease on Run under section 18 of the Settled Districts Pastoral Leases Act of 1876; amendment act of 1882; dated 5 November 1883; issued to John Broadbent and Daniel Williams; LAN/AF 1143; Q.S.A.
48. J. P. Voss/Land Commissioner, Gympie, 7 August 1897, LAN/AF 1143; Q.S.A.
49. Application to select lands under Pre-emptive right, Selection File 254, LAN/AG 293; Q.S.A.
50. Bill of Mortgage, J. Broadbent, William Forrest and Peter Macpherson, Trustees Late D. Williams, Mortgagors, Commercial Banking Company, Sydney Mortgagees, Document, No. 264728, Queensland Titles Office.
51. Mrs. W. Cooper (grand-daughter of John Broadbent), interview with J. Dale 1975.
52. "*The Gympie Times*", 18 June 1901.
53. Murphy and Easton, *op cit*, pp.261-262.
54. *Ibid*, pp.266.
55. Plans from Selection Files 592, 811, 863, 925, 950, 1192, 1320 and 1321, Gympie Land Agent's District.
56. Application to select; 12 October 1875; Selection File 592; LAN/AG 300; Q.S.A.
57. Memoirs of Mrs. Ellen Caulfield; Document in the possession of Mrs. M. J. Cecil, Gympie (daughter of James and Ellen Caulfield, Gympie).
58. Report of Bailiff of Crown Lands, Selection File 925; LAN/AG 309; Q.S.A.
59. M. E. Caulfield late of Woollooga (son of James Caulfield), interview with J. Dale 1972.
60. Mrs. J. Hogan, Maryborough (daughter of James Caulfield), interview with J. Dale 1974.
61. Mrs. Ellen Caulfield, *op cit*.
62. Mrs. M. I. Cecil, Gympie (daughter of James Caulfield), interview with J. Dale 1976.
63. Inquest into the death of M. E. Carroll, deceased 4 November 1885, JUS/N 124; Q.S.A.
64. Endorsement: Certificate of Title registered 12 March 1890, Register Book, Volume 778, Folio 191, Queensland Titles Office.
65. Bill of Mortgage, Document No. 264728, *op cit*.
66. Endorsement: New Title, No. 82399a, Register Book, Volume 778, Folio 191, Queensland Titles Office.
67. *Ibid*, Endorsement No. 378600.
68. "Gympie and District Farming and Grazing Industries", published by "*The Gympie Times*", J.O.L., pp.37-38.
69. W. Cotter, Brisbane, interview with J. Dale 1972.



70. J. Spicer, Kandanga, interview with J. Dale 1977.
71. Mrs. M. A. Welch late of Redcliffe (formerly Dale), interview with J. Dale 1973.
72. "The Gympie Times", 14 June 1902.
73. Number 1603, *Electoral Roll of Queensland* 1910, Kilkivan District, EL/55, Q.S.A.
74. W. Cotter, *op cit*.
75. W. F. F. Weinholt, "Sirumataw or The Man whom the Lion bit", unpublished biography of Arnold Weinholt, pp.8-9.
76. "Gympie District Farming and Grazing Industries", *op cit*.
77. W. Cotter, *op cit*.
78. "The Widgee Estate", map issued in 1911 to show land to be opened up as part of the re-purchased Widgee Estate.
79. W. Cotter, *op cit*.
80. "The Gympie Times", 1 August 1912.
81. W. Cotter, *op cit*.
82. "The Gympie Times", 1 August 1912.
83. Endorsement of Transfer 555559, Registered 14 May 1912, Queensland Titles Office.
84. J. Mullaly, *op cit*.
85. Murphy and Easton, *op cit*, p.259.